

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) comprising a hub (8) suitable for being mounted rotatably on an axle (6) of the wheel (4), the axle (6) extending in an axial direction, a rim (32) suitable for being associated with a tyre (44), the rim (32) having a lateral surface (46) suitable for delimiting, together with the tyre (44), an inflation chamber (48) for the tyre (44), at least one spoke (52) which fixes the rim (32) and the hub (8) together for rotation relative to the axle (6) of the wheel (4), the spoke (52) comprising a hub-attachment portion (56) and a rim-attachment portion (60), wherein in which at least a section of the rim-attachment portion (60) constitutes a solid body (64) in which there are formed a first duct (68) which extends substantially along an axis of the spoke and is in flow communication with the inflation chamber (48) through the lateral surface (46) of the rim (32), and a second duct (72) which is arranged substantially perpendicularly relative to the first duct (68) so that, in the region of a first end (76) of the second duct (72) which faces towards the first duct (68), the second duct (72) intersects the first duct (68) so as to create a flow communication between the first duct and the second duct (68, 72) and, in the region of a second end (80) remote from the first end (76), the second duct (72) emerges laterally from the at least one spoke (52) with an opening (84), the opening (84) being suitable for connection to inflation means.

2. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1, comprising a central plane (R) arranged perpendicularly relative to the axle (6) of the wheel, the central plane (R) dividing the wheel (4) into two half-portions arranged symmetrically on opposite sides of the central plane (R).

3. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, in which the second duct (72) emerges, in the region of the second end (80), in a raised portion (88) which projects from the at least one spoke (52).

4. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 3, in which the

raised portion (88) comprises a flattened surface (92) at a free end of the raised portion (88).

5. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 4, in which the flattened surface (92) constitutes an abutment for an inflation valve (94).

6. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 4 ~~or Claim 5~~, in which the flattened surface (92) constitutes an abutment for sealing means (128), the sealing means (128) being interposed between the second duct and an inflation valve (94).

7. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the first and second ducts (68, 72) extend for a distance shorter than the rim-attachment portion (60) of the at least one spoke (52).

8. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the second duct (72) constitutes a seat suitable for housing an inflation valve (94).

9. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 8, in which the second duct (72) comprises, in an internal side wall (96) thereof, a threaded portion (100) suitable for forming a threaded connection with a corresponding threaded portion (116) of a valve body (108) of an inflation valve (94).

10. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the first duct (68) extends substantially radially.

11. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~, in which the first duct (68) extends substantially symmetrically with respect to the central plane (R).

12. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~, in which the second duct (72) extends substantially perpendicularly relative to the central plane (R) of the wheel (4).

13. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, in which the second duct is positioned outside a projection, onto the central plane (~~R~~), of at least one brake disc mounted firmly and coaxially on the hub in the region of an axial end (~~20~~) of the hub (~~8~~).

14. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the wheel (4) comprises a bush suitable for being housed in the second duct (~~72~~) and suitable for housing in its interior a valve body (~~108~~) of an inflation valve (~~94~~).

15. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 14 in which the bush is made of brass.

16. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 14 in which the bush is made of an aluminium alloy.

17. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the wheel (4) is made of an aluminium alloy.

18. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 16~~, in which the wheel (4) is made of a magnesium alloy.

19. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, comprising an inflation valve (~~94~~) suitable for being fitted in the second duct (~~72~~) so as to constitute a means for the inflation of a tyre (~~44~~) that can be associated with the wheel (4).

20. (currently amended) A vehicle wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the first duct (~~68~~) is blind in the direction in which the at least one spoke (~~52~~) extends.

21. **(currently amended)** A method for the manufacture of a wheel (4) according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, comprising the steps of:

producing, by means of a casting process, a rim (32) having a spoke (52) comprising, in the region of a solid body (64), a first duct (68) extending radially, and a raised portion (88) extending axially,

drilling the spoke axially (52) in the region of the raised portion (88) so as to produce a second duct (72) which intersects the first duct (68), and

flattening the raised portion (88) in a plane perpendicular to the axle (6).

22. **(currently amended)** A method for the manufacture of a wheel (4) according to Claim 21, in which the first duct (68) is blind in the direction in which the spoke (52) extends.

23. **(currently amended)** A method for the manufacture of a wheel (4) according to Claim 21 ~~or Claim 22~~, comprising the step of forming a thread in the internal side wall (96) of the second duct (72).